

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Egypt

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 9 JUN 50

SUBJECT Extent of Communism in Egypt

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(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. [REDACTED] as a result of surveillance and interrogation of about fifty people arrested who were known to be or suspected of being connected with either of the only two known Communist organizations in Egypt, the Police and Security Services have come to the conclusion that the total number of people in the country who have had or now have any contact with members of either or both groups cannot exceed 5,000, and somewhat under 4,000 is a more likely figure.

2. The Police and Security Services estimate that the total number of persons who have really been active in support of the Communist cause, either in organizing, recruiting, writing, teaching, publishing, providing meeting places, or contributing funds, is not in excess of 500 and is more likely under 400.

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3. [REDACTED] that under present laws convictions will be difficult to obtain. Penalties under martial law have been heavier and the new proposed legislation will also provide for more severe penalties when martial law will have been entirely abandoned. However, this does not help to obtain convictions and at present the mere possession of Communist literature or the mere attendance at a meeting where Communism is being discussed is insufficient proof of subversive activities; some militant action must be discovered, and that is difficult. Hence, given the fact that the cost of living is still going up, that wages, despite bonus laws, are still inadequate, and especially that there are almost no posts open to university graduates in either government or business that pay enough to warrant an investment in higher education, both the Police and the Public Security Services expect a considerable increase in Communist enrollments in the coming year. They are not going to be able to prevent the free circulation of a dozen or more persons who are adequately trained and indoctrinated to organize cells and gather in recruits. A list of the most dangerous leaders will be compiled as soon as it is known which ones now under arrest are going to have to be set free. These people will be kept under surveillance insofar as possible and will be required to report weekly to precinct Police Stations.

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No Change in [REDACTED]  
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